

## DECISION FORM

To be sent to [discipline@rugbyeurope.eu](mailto:discipline@rugbyeurope.eu).



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Eric Csapo	
Player's number: No. 6	
Player's union: Hungary	
Competition: Rugby Europe 7s Trophy Series (Men's)	
Host Team (T1): Hungary	Visiting Team (T2): Croatia
Venue: Zagreb	
Date of match: 18/06/2023	
Rules to apply: Tournament Disciplinary Programme	
Referee Name: Martin Pertenais	
Plea: <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If "Other" selected, please specify:</i>	
Hearing details	
JO: Jennifer Donovan	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: N/a - -	
Hearing date: 18/06/2023	
Hearing venue: Zagreb	
Appearance Player: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Appearance Union: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Player's Representative(s): Gareth Lloyd, Coach	
Other attendees:	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: Referee's sending off report	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
<p>The report of the referee stated as follows: After I awarded the last (winning) try to Croatia, player #6 from Hungary repeatedly yelled in my face "Fuck you, fuck off". I directly showed him a RC. He walked away and his teammates shook my hand".</p> <p>Match footage was available which showed the player getting up off the ground after the try was awarded and immediately remonstrating with the referee. The player can be seen standing very close to the referee and inclining his head forwards toward the referee's face. The player can be seen gesturing with his hands and is clearly unhappy with the decision made.</p>	
Summary of player's evidence	
<p>The report of the referee was put to the player at the outset and he was asked if he accepted the contents of the report; if he accepted that he had committed an act of foul play and if he accepted that the act of foul play warranted a red card.</p> <p>The player admitted foul play but argued that a yellow card would have been sufficient.</p>	

The player said that he could not recall the exact words that he used when he spoke directly to the referee but he said that he argued that a try should not have been awarded. The player said that when he spoke directly to the referee he questioned the try. He accepted that he said the words outlined in the Sending Off report but stated that he did not say them until he was talking away. The J.O., the player and the player's representative went to the video room to view the footage again, the coach and J.O. having viewed it prior to the hearing.

The footage was not available with sound at that time and the technician explained that the exchange would not have been picked up by the microphone as it was too far away.

It could be seen from the footage that the incident came to an end as a result of the player's own team mate pushing him away.

The player did not have anything further to add after viewing the video.

After the player was advised that the JO was satisfied that the offending warranted a red card, the player's representative indicated that the behaviour was very out of character for the player. He said that it was an emotional match, being the semi final and that the player had acted in the heat of the moment. The player indicated that he was sorry for the way he had acted but that he had not had a chance to apologise directly to the referee since the match. He indicated that he would like to do so.

#### Essential elements of other evidence (e.g. medical reports)

N/a

#### Findings of fact

It was found that the player had verbally abused the referee in contravention of Law 9.28. The contents of the report of the referee were accepted and it was found that the player had used abusive language directly to the referee as set out in the sending off report.

#### Decision

Proven  Not proven  Other disposal (please state)

## SANCTIONING PROCESS

Assessment of seriousness	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
<b>Assessment of intent:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless	
<b>Reasons for finding as to intend:</b>	
The player intended to speak to the match official in the manner in which he did.	
<b>Nature of actions</b>	
Verbal abuse	
<b>Existence of provocation:</b>	
N/a	
<b>Whether player retaliated:</b>	
N/a	
<b>Self-defence:</b>	
N/a	
<b>Effect on victim:</b>	
No physical effect	
<b>Effect on match:</b>	
None, the incident occurred at the end of the match.	
<b>Vulnerability of victim:</b>	
Not vulnerable	
<b>Level of participation / premeditation:</b>	
Full participation	
<b>Conduct completed / attempted:</b>	
Completed.	
<b>Other features of player's conduct:</b>	
N/a	

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]	<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]
<b>Reasons for selecting entry point:</b>					
A low end entry point was considered appropriate for the reasons outlined above.					

Relevant off-field mitigating factors	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
<b>Acknowledgement of guilt and timing:</b>	<b>Player's disciplinary record / good character:</b>
The player accepted having committed an act of foul play at the commencement of the hearing.	The player has a clean disciplinary record having never received as much as a yellow card previously.
<b>Youth and inexperience of player:</b>	<b>Conduct prior to and at hearing:</b>
The player is relatively inexperienced, having 3 years of playing experience at this level.	The player was co-operative throughout

Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
The player indicated at the hearing that he wished to apologise to the referee but had not had an opportunity prior to the hearing.	N/a

Number of weeks deducted: 3
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
Based on the player's clean disciplinary record, his conduct at the hearing and acceptance of having committed an act of foul play, full mitigation of 50% was applied.

Additional relevant off-field aggravating factors
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>
Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game:
N/a
Need for deterrence:
N/a
Any other off-field aggravating factors:
N/a

Number of additional weeks: 0
Summary of reason for number of weeks added:
N/a

## SANCTION

**NOTE:** Players ordered off or cited by a citing commissioner are provisionally suspended pending the hearing of their case, such suspension should be taken into consideration when sanctioning – RE Discipline Regulations 4.1.4 / 4.4 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

<b>Total sanction:</b> 3 matches	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
<b>Sanction commences:</b> 18/06/2023	
<b>Sanction concludes:</b> TBC once the player's playing Schedule is confirmed	
<b>Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:</b> Hungary v Sweden in the present tournament. Details of the player's next two matches are to be submitted to Rugby Europe for consideration by the J.O. once the player's schedule is known.	
<b>Costs:</b> Nil	
<b>Signature</b>	
Name of the JO : Jennifer Donovan	
Date: 18/06/2023	
Signature (JO): <b>Jennifer Donovan</b>	

**NOTE:** You have 48 hours from notification of the decision of the chairman/jo to lodge an appeal with the tournament director – RE Discipline Regulations 4.6.2 (or equivalent Tournament rule)